

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in this application.

1. - 6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A pickle solution comprising at least one protein, at least one transglutaminase, an ammonium salt in an amount of from 0.001 mol/liter to ~~less than 0.1~~ 0.02 mol/liter, and water.

8. - 10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The pickle solution of Claim 7, wherein said ammonium salt is selected from the group consisting of ammonium chloride, ammonium carbonate, ammonium hydrogen carbonate, ammonium aluminum sulfate, ammonium iron citrate, ammonium persulfate, ammonium sulfate, diammonium hydrogen phosphate and ammonium dihydrogen phosphate.

12. (Previously Presented) The pickle solution of Claim 7, wherein said ammonium salt is ammonium chloride.

13. - 15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The pickle solution of Claim 7, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of soybean protein, casein, egg white protein, whey protein, gelatin, collagen and plasma protein.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of making the pickle solution of Claim 7, comprising:

mixing the protein, and from 0.001 mol/liter to ~~less than 0.1~~ 0.02 mol/liter ammonium salt in water; and

adding the transglutaminase.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17, wherein after said adding, the pickle solution is stored for a period of one to four days.

19. (Withdrawn) A method of making a processed meat comprising adding the pickle solution of Claim 7 to a meat.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19, wherein said adding comprises immersing the meat into said pickle solution.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 19, wherein said adding comprises injecting said pickle into said meat.

22. (Withdrawn) A processed meat obtained by the process of Claim 19.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of making the pickle solution of Claim 11, comprising:

mixing the protein, and from 0.001 mol/liter to ~~less than 0.1~~ 0.02 mol/liter ammonium salt in water; and

adding the transglutaminase.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein after said adding, the pickle solution is stored for a period of one to four days.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of making a processed meat comprising adding the pickle solution of Claim 11 to a meat.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 25, wherein said adding comprises immersing the meat into said pickle solution.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 25, wherein said adding comprises injecting said pickle into said meat.

28. (Withdrawn) A processed meat obtained by the process of Claim 25.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of making the pickle solution of Claim 12, comprising:

mixing the protein, and from 0.001 mol/liter to ~~less than 0.1~~ 0.02 mol/liter ammonium salt in water; and adding the transglutaminase.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein after said adding, the pickle solution is stored for a period of one to four days.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of making a processed meat comprising adding the pickle solution of Claim 12 to a meat.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein said adding comprises immersing the meat into said pickle solution.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein said adding comprises injecting said pickle into said meat.

34. (Withdrawn) A processed meat obtained by the process of Claim 31.

35. (Currently Amended) A method of making the pickle solution of Claim 16, comprising:

mixing the protein, and from 0.001 mol/liter to ~~less than 0.1~~ 0.02 mol/liter ammonium salt in water; and adding the transglutaminase.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein after said adding, the pickle solution is stored for a period of one to four days.

37. (Withdrawn) A method of making a processed meat comprising adding the pickle solution of Claim 16 to a meat.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 37, wherein said adding comprises immersing

the meat into said pickle solution.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 37, wherein said adding comprises injecting said pickle into said meat.

40. (Withdrawn) A processed meat obtained by the process of Claim 37.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 13-15 were previously cancelled.

Claims 7, 17, 23, and 29 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 7, 17, 23, and 29 are supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed, the specification at page 6, lines 17-22, and the Examples (for example, Example 1 at pages 9-13 and Table 13 (page 12)).

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.